

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

A cut of Col. Geo. W. Reed of Topeka appears in the *Kansas City Times* of the 29th. The Colonel has sadly altered in his looks since the writer saw him about a week ago.

Although we do not endorse all the opinions of the *Dexter Free Press* upon the subject of an official State paper, we reproduce in this issue the editor's article as his view of the case. We are still of the opinion that the interests of the Farmers' Alliance will be best served by an aggressive paper owned and controlled by the State organization.

The ex-Confederates of Missouri have been enjoying a reunion at Higginsville during the past week. Congressman Hatch in his address speaking for the old soldiers, said:

"We are just as loyal today as those who fought under the stars and stripes, and should a war break out with Great Britain or any other country, that country will see us fighting side by side and shoulder to shoulder with those with whom we once contended."

We want no brand, neither do our x-opponents want us branded.

"I have never heard a federal soldier with an honorable record speak disparagingly of confederate soldiers. It is the dead beats who staid at home who do that."

Judge Upton of St. Louis introduced a resolution favoring a reunion of the blue and gray at Vicksburg in 1890 which was enthusiastically agreed to. The reunion terminated on the 28th.

Among the benefits to be realized by members of Farmers' organizations, that of education heretofore too much neglected must not be regarded as least in importance. The regular meetings are schools where all those questions which most intimately concern the agricultural population are frequently and intelligently discussed; the facts and ideas of individuals derived from reading or experience, become the common property of all, and a higher degree of general intelligence will necessarily characterize those communities in which such meetings are maintained. The regular participation of members in the discussion of such questions as are presented from time to time leads to habits of thoughtfulness and study in the interval between the meetings, and members themselves are surprised at the fund of information acquired upon topics of greatest interest to them by the interchange of thoughts and experiences and the intelligent presentation of ideas and facts, derived from available books and periodicals. The young are encouraged by association with their elders in the exercises of these meetings and by participation in the discussions become schooled in habits of consecutive thought and the ability to intelligently express their views in public. The importance of these educational features cannot be too highly estimated, and their influence is sure to be more distinctly manifest in the near future.

### Special Notice.

Space is freely offered in the *Advocate* for correspondents who desire to discuss any of the issues of the Alliance or matter of interest to general

We observe another evidence of the assinine stupidity of the average political demagogue in the following plank in the platform of the Ohio democracy.

"We regard trusts, in whatever form organized, as the legitimate result of our present tariff legislation, and we demand the repeal of all tariff taxes that enables them to extort from the people exorbitant prices for the products they control."

Will some good thoroughbred democratic friend whose faith in this fallacy is equal to the faith of the christian in his Bible or the Mohammedan in the Koran, please enlighten us upon the following points which our obtuse understanding will not enable us to harmonize with this fundamental doctrine of the democratic creed.

1st. In what way is the present tariff system responsible for the coffee trust or the anthracite coal trust? 2nd if the present tariff system should be repealed to-morrow, and absolute free trade established as the law of the land, what would prevent those trusts that now control protected industries from maintaining present prices of their respective commodities and thus adding the amount of the tariff to their enormous profits? If these points can be made clear, we may be induced to espouse the democratic cause. The fact is our present tariff system is no more responsible for trusts, than are the ten commandments or the Marquis of Queensberry rules; and any man with as much brains as an army grayback ought to know it. There are undoubtedly evils connected with our tariff system that need correction but when political conventions or scheming political leaders ascribe to the tariff every evil that flesh is heir to, they exhibit a lack of comprehension, either of the question under discussion, or the intelligence of the people, and in either case they are unworthy of the confidence for which they aspire.

We will place a reasonable space at the disposal of any political luminary who may have confidence in his ability to shed light upon the questions above submitted.

The boys in blue are living over again the old days of the war around the campfires at Milwaukee this week. The report of the adjutant general Eugene F. Weigel shows the present membership of the G. A. R. to be 382,589 an increase during the past year of 21,431.

General Sherman is in attendance and is everywhere received with great enthusiasm. At the Soldiers' Home he made the following brief address to the assembled multitude:

"Boys my speaking days are over. I am not going to make any more speeches. If you want a speech take Senator Manderson. I think he can make a good speech. I am always glad to see so many soldiers looking so healthy and hearty. I think we can stand on our legs yet. I like to see that our old 'Uncle Sam' takes pretty good care of the old soldiers. Uncle Sam can't make old men young but he can make young men just as good as you and I ever were. We have passed through one crisis of our country's history. I don't see any chance of another, but nobody knows the future. Bring up your children to love and venerate the old soldiers who fought in 1861 and 1865, and make them uncover their heads when

they see that little banner that you followed in the days which tried us to the utmost. Let us venerate that flag and love our country and love each other and stand by each other as long as we have heads on our shoulders and legs on our bodies. Those old soldiers who marched against the enemy in those trying days, a grateful country tries its best to assist, and will I think, in fact I am sure, be good to you when you get old."

Gen. Russel A. Alger, of Detroit Mich., was elected Commander-in-chief for the ensuing year by acclamation. Boston, Mass. was chosen as the place for the next annual meeting.

### Agricultural Statistics.

Secretary Mohler of the state Board of Agricultural has found that, in several counties in the state farmers have refused to give to the assessors the customary agricultural statistics, and that as a consequence of this refusal the statistics returned were "so imperfect and incomplete as to be practically worthless." The secretary feels it his duty therefore to chide the farmers for their refusal, and undertakes to convince them that they are in error in supposing that the reports of the agricultural department are used by gamblers as a basis of speculation. There are a few inconsistencies in the secretary's argument, however, that it may be well to note. He quotes secretary Rusk as saying that "truthful statistics damage no one except speculators. The great mistake of the farmers is this: That the gamblers depend on the statistics furnished by the farmers for their gambling operations; while the facts are (and the facts are generally known) grain gamblers connected with the boards of trade in our large cities have men in their employ traveling continually during the growing season in every part of the country, gathering the facts in regard to the acreage and yield of wheat and corn per acre, and other crops and it is surprising to know how near they get to the exact facts, long in advance of the time the assessors return reach this office. These men are experts and do their work thoroughly."

If the foregoing be true all that Secretary Mohler needs to do in order to perfect the reports from those counties where farmers have refused to give the statistics is to publish the statistics collected by these "experts" who get so "surprisingly near the exact facts long in advance of the time the assessor's returns reach his office." He might thus anticipate the customary time of issuing his report and give the "general public" which is so deeply interested in this matter the benefit of his figures at a much earlier day. But listen again to the logic favoring the giving of these statistics:

"Now if the people had no means of collecting these statistics, compiling and giving them to the public, there is no telling what these unscrupulous men (the gamblers) would do."

If it is a fact as the secretary stated that the gamblers depend upon the statistics collected by their own men, and not upon those furnished by the assessor's reports it is difficult to see how "these unscrupulous men" could do anything more than they do at the present time. But it is said further: "Just so with our monthly reports.

Grain gamblers during the growing seasons, get reports of the conditions of crops continually, and the market is "bullied" or "beared" according as the news is favorable or unfavorable, but when the state or government reports come in, giving the facts from trustworthy sources these gambling operations are checked and a truce for a time is called." How does this statement correspond with the previous statement of the surprising accuracy of the statistics gathered by the official agents of the gamblers? If these men are experts and "do their work thoroughly" as it is stated that they do, how can the assessor's reports influence the gambling schemers that make use of their own statistics as a basis of their operations? There is a seeming incongruity in the secretary's argument that deprives it of very much of the force that it should possess coming from such a source.

We propose to offer no objection to the propriety of collecting and compiling correct statistics as a source of general information, but we do hold that if it is important to the state and the government to collect and publish these statistics, it is likewise important to the people that they be protected from the consequences of their illegitimate use for purposes of systematic robbery; and so long as the government neglects to provide this protection so long are the people justified in refusing to give the desired information. We do not believe that the grain gamblers rely upon their own statistics for the information upon which their operations are based. Correct knowledge is absolutely essential for successful speculations in the exchange, and it will be found as a matter of fact that he is most successful in the business of dealing in futures, who is most successful in obtaining correct information of the grain prospect during the season. It matters not therefore whether the statistics gathered by the agents of the gamblers or those gathered by the assessors are most correct, it is evident that the experienced gambler will always rely upon the most correct information to be obtained to serve the purposes of his trade. We recollect reading not long ago that there was considerable consternation in the Chicago exchange when this fact of the refusal of Kansas farmers to give these statistics was first made known, and it will be difficult to convince the average Alliance man who has been studying some of the questions that so intimately concern his interests for some time past, that it is his duty to place at the disposal of his enemies the means whereby to perpetuate the oppression of the agricultural classes. If the statements set forth by Secretary Mohler are of any value whatever to farmers, they indicate the necessity that they should adopt some measures to protect themselves from the special agents of the gamblers who are said to be so surprisingly accurate in their methods rather than place themselves voluntarily in the power of their enemies by cheerfully furnishing statistical information to the assessors. When the government and the states are prepared to protect the farmers from the consequences of an illegitimate use of such information, then may it reasonably be expected to be cheerfully furnished; and until that time shall arrive it should continue to be a